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Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1962.

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report
on the health of the population of Whittlesey
for 1962.

I take much pleasure in expressing my
thanks to my colleagues in the Health Department,
Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Tyers, who have carried out
their duties in an exemplary manner and displayed
great courtesy and tact in dealing with the
general public.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health



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OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

D.A. Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No.

Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3, 106
Rateable Value (at 31.12.62.)	£ 114, 563
Product of ld. rate (at 31.3.62.)	£463. 19s. 7d.
Population (Registrar General's figures).	9, 460

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	75	75	150
Illegitimate	5	9	14
Total:	<u>80</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>164</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	17.34
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	17.34
England and Wales	-	18.0

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 8.53

STILLBIRTH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total:	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	12
England and Wales	-	18.1

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	75	76	151
Illegitimate	5	10	15
Total:	<u>80</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>166</u>

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total:	2	1	3
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	18.29
England and Wales	-	20.7

The Infant Mortality rate for Whittlesey is only just below that for England and Wales as a whole. Three deaths occurred in all. One child had a severe congenital deformity incompatible with survival for any length of time.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 20.0

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 0

NEO--NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per
1,000 total live births) 12.2

EARLY NEO--NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per
1,000 total live births) 6.1

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under
1 week combined per 1,000
total live and still births) 18.07

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	300

Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	0.35

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	49	<u>Female</u>	51	<u>Total</u>	100
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Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population	10.57
Adjusted Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population	10.73
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population	11.9

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1962 :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4
Coronary disease, angina	11	8
Hypertension with heart disease	-	4
Other heart disease	2	6
Other circulatory disease	-	2
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	3	6
Bronchitis	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	3	-
Other defined and illdefined diseases	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	49	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year was remarkable for the almost complete absence of notifiable infectious diseases. Immunisation against certain diseases is a well established procedure and without doubt is responsible for the almost complete disappearance of some complaints. Supplies of anti-polio-myelitis vaccine were readily available towards the end of the year and the oral variety has proved much more acceptable than that given by injection.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1962 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Infective Jaundice	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total:	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventh
Annual Report on the work carried out in year 1962.

Included in the Report are details of the
Measurement of Air Pollution which has been carried
out by the Council. The results obtained are being
used by the Department of Scientific and Industrial
Research as part of a National Survey. By doing
this type of work small authorities such as
Whittlesey are making a valuable contribution.

I wish to record my appreciation of the
support received from the Public Health Committee,
the Medical Officer of Health and the help given
by the Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor, and
to Mrs Tyers, who throughout the year has so ably
carried out her duties.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is purchased in bulk from Peterborough Corporation. Storage and distribution in the Urban District are under the control of Mr. J.M. Harris, the Surveyor & Water Engineer.

Frequent orthotolodine tests were made of the water from domestic taps and a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found. The water is not plumbo-solvent. Peterborough Corporation test the water regularly and no treatment other than chlorination is carried out.

The total consumption of water for the year, domestic and trade, was 123, 081, 000 gallons.

During a dry spell early in the summer there was a shortage of water. For several years such shortages have become more frequent. To improve supplies the Council adopted a scheme prepared by their Consulting Engineers for a new trunk main together with an increase in the storage capacity at the reservoir.

CARAVANS

There are 15 licences issued under the Caravan Act for single sites and one multiple site. These sites have been satisfactory and are of a good standard.

Three multiple sites with deemed planning permission are unsatisfactory as they do not comply with reasonable standards and preparations are being made by the County Planning Authority to run these sites down. During the year the Council purchased one of these sites which is in a prominent position, some improvements of the conditions were effected and it is hoped to eventually clear the site and use it for bungalows.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Five pumping stations enable most of the town and the villages of Coates and Eastrea to have the benefit of a sewer. There are still houses in the sewered areas with pail closets, owners of these houses have been asked to connect to the sewer. Outside the sewered areas more owners are substituting septic tanks for pail closets.

The poor conditions, caused by overflowing septic tanks continues in part of Snoots Road but the Council has instituted procedure for the making up of the road and the provision of a sewer. The cost of the works will be charged to the frontagers.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

Dwellings outside the sewered areas are served by septic tanks, pail closets or vaults. Emptying of these appliances is carried out by a Contractor who is engaged by the Council.

The Contract in 1962 covered 192 pails which were emptied three times in every fortnight. Septic tanks and vaults are emptied free on request once in any period of six months. Although the number of pails and vaults is decreasing the rise in the number of septic tanks shows that this service will continue to be necessary.

From time to time complaints were made that the Contractor was not emptying appliances as often or as quickly as he should. As the nature of the work makes it hard to obtain labour the provision of a satisfactory service is a difficult problem.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. In April the Dennis 10 cubic yard side loader was replaced by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cubic yard vehicle with a compressor. The new vehicle was used in the town area in place of a similar one without compression. There was a saving in time, the number of journeys to the tip being reduced as the compressor enabled more refuse to be packed in the vehicle.

The town area is collected weekly by the new Shelvoke & Drewry vehicle which is driven by the foreman and has three loaders. The outside areas are collected by the old Shelvoke & Drewry vehicle which has a driver and one loader. Built up areas are collected weekly and more isolated dwellings have a three weekly collection.

With the construction of more houses and with the present labour force the vehicles are usually out all week. This does not allow much flexibility for cleaning, maintenance or making up delays caused by holidays or bad weather conditions.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Any repairs are carried out by local garages.

Although at times the regular collections were delayed due to sickness, holidays and bad weather, few complaints were made. The cheerful and pleasant manner with which the foreman and loaders approach their work helps to create a good atmosphere with the public. It is the policy to collect everything which is the normal waste product of a house, this includes beds, mattresses, settees etc. Otherwise these articles are dumped in ditches or on waste land, become an eyesore and then have to be collected and taken to the refuse tip.

Altogether 143,417 refuse bin collections were made in the year, together with trade refuse collected weekly from 32 premises, this resulted in 1001 journeys to the refuse tip.

No. of bins collected during year	143, 417			
Town round weekly average	1, 782			
Outside area weekly average	976			
	<u>Shelvoke</u> <u>& Drewry</u>	<u>Dennis</u> <u>(to April)</u>	<u>Shelvoke</u> <u>& Drewry</u> <u>(with</u> <u>compressor)</u> <u>from April)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mileage	3873	1922	1906	7701
Fuel consumption	484	285) (petrol)	265	1034
Miles per gallon	8	6.74	7.19	7.45

REFUSE DISPOSAL

There are a number of sites in the area suitable for filling by controlled tipping, many are, however, close to occupied houses and without mechanical aid it would not be possible to provide adequate covering material. An added hazard is that of persons tatting on the tip after working hours, who often light fires.

With the amount of refuse collected and labour available it is not economic to consider salvage other than picking out scrap metal which comes to the surface.

The present tip is close to town giving the advantage of short hauls and is away from the built up area. The Council have now purchased land adjoining the tip for development as a housing estate. The life of the tip at the present rate of collection is approximately eight years, but if development is carried out before then, tipping there will probably have to be discontinued.

It may well be that in the future tipping on the land, often called controlled when it is in fact crude, will not meet with approval. There are in this area disused clay workings which are allowed to flood, if a group of authorities with a sufficiently large population combined to utilise one of these disused pits a good deal could be done. Instead of numerous semi-controlled tips with little or no salvage possible, a group would make it economically possible to erect a separation and pulverisation plant at the top of a pit, where full salvage could be carried out and the takings could be discharged by chute to the bottom of the pit.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is one registered common lodging house, licensed for 18 persons. Apart from seasonal land workers the premises are not much used. The premises have a communal dining room, a separate kitchen with a sink and water supply and gas rings for cooking. Lodgers use the sanitary accommodation of the public house of which the lodging house is part.

The premises are kept satisfactorily.

MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

The Council decided to take part in the National Survey of Air Pollution and measuring apparatus was purchased. Whittlesey has now been included in the list of 140 representative towns whose results will be analysed to provide a "yardstick" by which other towns can judge their own pollution levels. At the suggestion of the staff of the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research the apparatus was sited at the Sir Harry Smith School.

The apparatus consists of an electric pump which draws air from outside the building, first through a filter paper which extracts the fine particles of airborne smoke (heavier-than-air grit and dust is prevented from entering by keeping the intake funnel pointing vertically downwards).

After being filtered the air is bubbled through a solution of hydrogen peroxide which absorbs sulphur dioxide from the air. The amount of this gas absorbed can be determined from the amount of sulphuric acid found in the solution. Between the bubbler and the pump is a gas meter for measuring the amount of air which passes through.

At the same time each day, the filter paper and hydrogen peroxide bubbler are replaced, and the gas meter reading taken. Later, the darkness of the stain on the smoke filter is assessed photoelectrically with a special reflectometer, and the amount of acid in the bubbler is measured by titration using a coloured indicator. The results of these observations, together with weather data, are sent to Warren Spring Laboratory. Concentrations of smoke and of sulphur dioxide are calculated and expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre of air sampled.

The results are published in a monthly bulletin together with those from the rest of the National Survey sites (now over 900 in 400 towns throughout the United Kingdom). Annual summaries and analyses are prepared for presentation to the Standing Conference on which all those co-operating in the Survey are entitled to be represented. Each site is classified according to the type of district in which it is situated so that comparisons can be made with other towns.

Readings commenced at the beginning of April 1962. Because of variations in weather conditions from one season to another, and from one year to the next at the same season, long-term trends cannot be judged with confidence until several years readings are available, but some conclusions can already be drawn about the situation in Whittlesey.

The table below shows monthly average readings and the reading for the highest day's pollution in each month. The last column headed Smoke/SO₂ Ratio gives an indication of the source of the pollution as coming from industrial or domestic chimneys, since industrial chimneys produce a much smaller proportion of smoke to sulphur dioxide than domestic chimneys, and therefore show a lower ratio. The changing ratios (lowest in summer and highest in winter) indicate that industrial pollution is present all the year but in winter domestic pollution contributes a considerable proportion of the smoke. The summer average for smoke (June, July and August) of 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is increased 7-fold to a November - December average of 119 μg ; the summer average of 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of sulphur dioxide is only increased 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ times in the winter period, so the extra pollution must consist very largely of smoke. If no industrial pollution were present the ratios would be expected to be about 1.00, or above. However, none of the levels in this period are so high as to cause undue concern; although some caution must be exercised in comparing one town with another, Whittlesey's results are matched by those from several other towns in the southern half of the country. In London and large northern industrial towns daily levels ten times as high were experienced during the smog in December.

AIR POLLUTION - WHITTLESEY

Month	Average Smoke	Highest Day	Average SO ₂	Highest Day	Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
April	34	100	60	232	.56
May	28	81	79	264	.35
June	15	36	71	232	.21
July	18	46	45	127	.4
August	19	59	71	223	.27
September	40	108	74	314	.54
October	88	193	100	279	.88
November	112	326	136	397	.82
December	125	400	144	427	.87

The Public Health Committee considered the possible effects of fluorides emitted from brickwork chimneys and the desirability of measuring these emissions. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research were prepared to assist in supplying equipment, but suggested that in the first instance an approach be made to the Medical Research Council who had carried out investigations into this problem.

In answer to an enquiry of the Medical Research Council it was disclosed that a study had been made in the neighbourhood of an aluminium smelting works where there was a high deposit of fluorides. There had been no evidence of harmful effects to human beings.

Other enquiries revealed that the Factory Inspectorate, who are responsible for the control of pollution from brickworks, had carried out measurements of fluoride deposits in the Bedford area which has a concentration of brickworks. From these tests the Factory Inspectorate concluded that the amount of pollution (from fluorides) in that area was well below the permitted safety level for industry. It was also stated that there was no known commercial method of preventing the emission of fluorides from brick chimneys.

As a result of the information obtained from these various sources the Public Health Committee decided not to measure fluoride deposits, but had misgivings about the injurious effect on cattle in parts of the district.

INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1962 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notice</u>	<u>Statutory Notice</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	35	3	-
Drainage	27	2	3
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	71	3	-
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	174	2	-
Food Shops	51	5	-
Restaurants	22	-	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	-	-	-
Housing	248	11	-
Nuisances	23	7	-
Rats and Mice	54	-	-
Caravan Sites	49	2	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	56	-	-

Of the 35 informal notices served 34 were complied with. The 3 statutory notices were not complied with by the end of the year.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No infestations of vermin were reported or found.

One premises was treated for cockroaches and several investigations were made of fly infestations which were very prevalent during the summer.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1962 :-

By Local Authority	16 Houses and Bungalows
By Private Enterprise	77 Houses and Bungalows

25 applications were made for Improvement Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

Notices of Time and Place to consider the condition of six dwellings were served in the year and the following action taken :-

Demolition Order	1
Closing Orders	3

12 dwellings were demolished and 9 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

Although few dwellings became available during the year a start was made on the New Road housing site which when completed will be 118 dwellings. Until these dwellings are ready it will not be possible to deal with many unfit houses.

A list of 37 dwellings which are unfit and are of a type likely to be dealt with as individual unfit houses or in clearance areas was agreed by the Council. To prevent possible expensive repairs owners were notified that their dwellings were on the list.

The improvement in the housing situation at Coates, reported last year, was maintained. Two houses were constructed on the site of two old dwellings and plans were at an advanced stage for four houses on one cleared site and a layout was agreed for another site to accommodate six 3 bedroomed houses and twelve 2 bedroomed bungalows.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to provide more housing accommodation at Pondersbridge to deal with the unfit dwellings there. Five families occupy some very poor standard houses which are mainly beyond repair. Three of these families wish to be re-housed at Pondersbridge. The Council has not been able to find suitable building land in that area and an enquiry of existing council house tenants has not revealed any who wish to move so that houses could be made available there.

In view of the big demand for bungalows and the fact that nearly half of the applicants were single women, the Council decided to construct a block of Aged Persons Flatlets. Visits were made to schemes carried out by other authorities and the Housing Committee drew up details of the type of flatlet and facilities which they considered suitable. It was agreed to have a block of 20 single flatlets with accommodation for a warden, the flatlets being self contained. A plot of land on which such a scheme could be built was purchased and layouts were invited from firms who specialise in this type of work.

RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications under the above Act during 1962.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1959

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	17	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	51	32	2	-
Other premises	7	6	-	-
TOTAL:	62	55	2	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	2	1	-	2	-
TOTAL :	2	1	-	2	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE-CREAM

There are 39 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD

8 certificates were issued covering 8 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of Food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	1
Cafes	3
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	32

There is a general change in food premises, mainly to improve display and attract custom, at the same time there is usually an improvement in hygiene. As more foods are pre-packed the possibility of contamination from display and handling is lessened, but to offset this as the food has usually been processed more attention must be paid to storage conditions and rotation of stock.

As more types of frozen foods are being sold many shops are being equipped with deep freeze cabinets. It is important that the maker's instructions are carefully followed and strict rotation of stock is carried out.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The 1st July 1962 was the Appointed Day by when slaughterhouses in the district had to be brought up to the new standard of construction and facilities.

Until that date six slaughterhouses were licensed, but only four were in regular use. Although none complied with the new Regulations, prime quality animals were slaughtered and dressed in them and the carcasses were of good appearance and keeping quality.

After the first of July there was only one slaughterhouse, this was a newly constructed one built privately by a butcher to replace the unsatisfactory slaughterhouse he was using. Although the order for the new building was given in October 1961 there were numerous delays in obtaining working drawings and materials. The new slaughterhouse is a well designed building and is capable of handling a large throughput.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises.

MEAT INSPECTION

Ante-mortem inspection is made whenever possible. All carcasses are inspected except during the period when annual leave is taken outside the district. On these occasions there is a reciprocal arrangement with the Public Health Inspector of the Thorney Rural District Council to inspect if the butcher finds any disease or suspected unfitness.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	77	-	-	458	291	-
Number inspected	76	-	-	452	281	-

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	2	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	8.4	-	-	0.44	0.71	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.07	-

Cysticercos

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

Whole carcass fevered and badly bled	612 lbs.
Whole carcass oedema	784 lbs.
2 parts liver distomatosis	10 lbs.
Part leg bruising	5 lbs.
Bruising spleen and part of skirt	4 lbs.

Pigs

3 pigs heads and tongues affected with tuberculosis	30 lbs.
1 heart and lungs inflammation	7 lbs.
1 liver cirrhosis	4 lbs.

Sheep

2 livers with distomatosis	7 lbs.
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